

April 5, 1983

LB 142

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, you have heard a lot of debate on the chiropractor issue and you have probably heard it all but I think Senator Cullan in this hastily drafted amendment has reached the crux of the matter in my eyes and that is the question about coverage, health insurance coverage, of different practices in the State of Nebraska concerning medical care and the question of the chiropractors is one which certainly is the one we are considering right now and I think the amendment that is proposed is only dealing with them but the broader question is, any time we expand the scope of practice under our law, insurance coverage has to be expanded to cover that additional responsibility, and that is whether or not it is in the best interest of that insurance company or the best interest of the state and it is an automatic thing that I think we have to look at on the floor. Senator Cullan, I am not sure how serious he is with the amendment but I will take the opportunity just to tell you that it seems to me that this is the key problem that we have right now. Every bill that comes across this floor expanding the scope of practice is tied to increases in health care costs because the expanded scope has to be covered, has to be paid for, and it seems to me that in some of these areas that we might want to look at optional requirements in terms of coverage, that maybe we will find a way in which we can allow for coverage but not at the expense of the general public but at the option of the insurance carrier themselves or the insurance purchaser. And with that I think you will see much more concern about health care costs and much more intelligent decision making on the part of the general public because they have to make that choice of what they cover for and what they pay for thus in coverage. And so when Senator Cullan brings up this point, although we have talked about the issue a lot, it is a legitimate point and one that I think you should be aware of and be concerned about.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, then Senator Sieck.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, my initial inclination was to say, sure, I will accept that amendment. I don't think it is that big a deal because Blue Cross-Blue Shield excludes payment already automatically of most, in fact almost all, as I understand it, type of chiropractic services, spinal adjustments, so on and so forth. Now I do a little checking though and I find out the amendment is kind of the old trick amendment and it would be pretty